

Bureau of Land Management State Office  
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**NVN**  
Native Village of Nuiqsut



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March 24, 2016

Mr. Bud Cribley,  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management State Office  
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bcribley@blm.gov

Mr. Steve M. Cohn  
Deputy State Director  
Bureau of Land M  
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Ms. Molly Cobbs, Regional Mitigation Strategy Coordinator  
Bureau of Land Management State Office  
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Ms. Stacie McIntosh  
Field Manager  
Arctic Field Office  
1150 University Avenue  
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Ms. Stacey Fritz  
Anthropologist  
Arctic Field Office  
1150 University Avenue  
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Dear Mr. Cribley and Mr. Cohn; Ms. Cobbs, Ms. McIntosh, and Ms. Fritz:

The Native Village of Nuiqsut (NVN) wishes to express our sincere thanks to BLM-Alaska for all of the hard work in putting together the most recent GMT1 NPR-A RMS workshop in Fairbanks March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. NVN does understand that this is a very unique and challenging process, and clearly appreciates the complexity and innovation necessary to complete such a project.

The NVN would also like to take this opportunity to express our willingness to continue participating in the RMS process, and all NPR-A BLM Permitting processes, and pledge our participation will be conducted in a civil and respectful manner. While we do understand the frustrations the burden of resource development brings to our community, and that those frustrations boil over into anger as Nuiqsut is forced to deal with issues from economic to social to cultural, there are two points NVN would like to make based on comments expressed by ‘residents of Nuiqsut’ at this most recent RMS workshop in Fairbanks:

1) We consider ourselves to be Americans, and willingly and proudly participate in the American system of governance. NVN tribal members are Inuit by race and Inupiaq by culture, but we are Americans first and foremost. Therefore we very strongly disagree with the statement made by the speaker representing Nuiqsut who said they no longer saw themselves as American.

2) NVN understands that the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Program is based on taxation lease sales on federal lands, but that these funds are passed through and administered by the State of Alaska DCCED/DCRA. We understand the BLM has no authority in issuing determinations regarding disbursement of those funds, nor any ability to make changes to the federal statutes that control this program. As a result, NVN disagrees with the speakers representing Nuiqsut who claimed that BLM needs to “fix” the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Program, because NVN clearly understands BLM has no authority in this matter.

3) NVN understands that the \$8 million negotiated with the applicant for permitting the GMT1 project as a result of the variance to the protections provided by the Fish Creek setback was done without prior experience and without a model to follow regarding compensation for lands with human inhabitants, and that one of the primary purposes of the RMS is to establish a baseline from which to deal with future issues. NVN believes that BLM negotiated in good faith for the community of Nuiqsut, and does not agree with the speaker representing Nuiqsut who stated the BLM “got screwed” in the negotiation process; somehow implying that BLM lacked negotiation skills.

4) We welcome BLM to the Nuiqsut community, as always, for our RMS community meeting on April 22, 2016. We appreciate the visit very much, and your willingness to help us hold a potlatch as a means of celebrating our partnership with BLM.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Kunaknana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Samuel Kunaknana

President

Native Village of Nuiqsut Tribal Government